

August 19, 2000

Michael Buckley, Director
Flood Hazard Mapping Technical Services Division
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street SW
Washington, DC 20472

Dear Director Buckley,

[REDACTED] had asked me on two separate occasions to forward information I had relating to historical floods (prior to 1892). I have been looking into this matter and wanted to share some of what I have found.

The most salient document (Attachment 1) contains information about the gauge used on the Congaree for water years 1893, 1894 and 1895. It clearly identifies a painted gauge on the first pier that has been in place since at least 1852. In other words, the gauge straddles the historical period and the continuous recording period. Attachment 2 contains information about the Congaree gauge for water years 1911 and 1912. This brass gauge on pier 3 is calibrated to within .01' of the original gauge using the same benchmark.

I am gathering more source material, but the 1896 report clearly links the historical and continuous data. When USGS summarized their finding at the April 24 hearing, they relied on a faulty NWS summary (Attachment 3) that indicates the brass gauge had been in place since 1891, which contradicts the source material used in compiling that summary.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Cc Dr. Paul Sandifer, DNR
[REDACTED] Michael Baker Jr